Phasing out of high cost mines of Hindustan Copper Limited

2156. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any directions from Government to Hindustan Copper Limited to phase out its high cost mines; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) In pursuance of directions of the Government to Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) to examine phasing out of its high cost mines to improve financial performance of the company, HCL conducted a detailed examination about optimal production-mix. After examining the matter it was concluded that phasing out of uneconomic units like Khetri and Mosaboni mines should be concurrent with the exploitation of economically viable new deposits so as to sustain the copper production in the country. HCL has also plans for development of Banwas deposit near Khetri mines and Chapri Sidheshwar and Kandadih mines near Mosaboni. A detailed study of Singbhum Copper Belt is also being made with the assistance of a foreign consultant. A number of cost reduction measures are underway on account of which HCL has shown sustained improvement in capacity utilisation and financial results.

Location of the office of Chief Engineer, C.P.W.D.

2157. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister's office of Central Public Works Department, Southern Zone II, consisting of three Superintendent Engineers in Andhra Pradesh and one in Karnataka, is located at Madras; and

(b) if so, the justification for its location?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The Office of the Chief Engineer, Southern Zone-II, Central P.W.D. is functioning at Madras, as it has not been possible to provide necessary supporting staff as yet. The Chief Engineer, Southern Zone-II is, therefore, sharing office accommodation and staff with Chief Engineer, Southern Zone-I, located at Madras.

Equitable and rational pricing policy

2158. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are looking for an equitable and rational pricing policy, to ensure reasonable as well as average profits to the farmers by taking into account the input costs for farming; and

(b) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) It is the declared policy of the Government to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers for major agricultural commodities. The Government decide on support prices for various agricultural commodities talking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of the State Governments, the Central Ministries and the Planning Commission. The CACP, while recommending support prices, takes into account a number of important factors including the cost of production of the commodity.

The cost of production taken into account includes not only the paid-out costs but also imputed value of owned assets including land and family labour for which the farmer does not incur cash expenses. While fixing the support prices, it is ensured that these prices cover cost of production and also provide a reasonable margin of profit.

Prices of power tillers and other agricultural implements

2159. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power tillers and other agricultural implements produced in the country are available at a cheaper rate in other countries; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) Prices of power tillers and agricultural implements produced in the country depend upon their capabilities and technical specifications. Further the incidence of levies and export incentives for Indian manufactured products has to be assessed on individual item basis. Therefore, a comparison of prices is not possible unless the items are specified and technical specifications are known.

दृष्टिहीन व्यक्तियों को रोजगार

2160. **श्री सन्तोष बागड़ोदिया :** क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान विकलांग व्यक्तियों में से ऐसे दृष्टिहीन व्यक्तियों की वर्षवार संख्या कितनी है जिन्हें रोजगार उपलब्ध किया गया है ?

कल्याण मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्रीमती सुमति ओरांव) : रोजगार कार्यालयों तथा विकलांगों के लिए विशेष रोजगार कार्यालयों के माध्यम से जिन नेत्रहीन व्यक्तियों को रोजगार प्रदान किया गया उनकी संख्या 1985 में 385, 1986 में 529 और 1987 (जून, 1987 तक) में 168 थी। इसके अतिरिक्त, दिल्ली तथा इसके आसपास विभिन्न केन्द्रीय मंत्रालयों/विभागों और सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों में काफी समय से खाली पड़ी रिक्तियों को भरने के लिए शुरू की गई विशेष भर्ती के परिणामस्वरूप, 1987 के दौरान, 269 नेत्रहीनों की नियुक्ति हेतु सिफारिश की गई थी।

Supply of drinking water

2161. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study made by the World Bank recently revealed that more than 1.5 billion people, about one third of the World population, still have no access to safe drinking water and India ranks first among these country;

(b) whether any measures have also been suggested in the study report for providing drinking water to such people;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and whether Government have examined these suggestions; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to implement these measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) This Ministry is not aware of such a study by the World Bank, as it has not been received so far. However, on the basis of the information obtained from the State Governments and the Union Territories, more than 79 per cent of the urban